

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
November 21, 2005 – 7:00 PM**

PRESENT: Jim Workman, Chairman
Cliff Pratt, Vice-Chairman
Rick Griffin
Virginia Bridle-Russell
James S. Barrington, Town Manager
Maureen Duffy, Administrative Assistant

REGRETS: Ben Moore

Chairman Jim Workman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and introduced those in attendance.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG – Dyana Martin led the audience in the salute to the flag.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Mrs. Bridle-Russell announced that there will be an information session regarding the Medicare Part D - Prescription Drug Coverage Program on Tuesday, November 29. The Session will be held at Hobbs House, Trinity Church from 2-4pm. Anyone needing to make a decision about the Medicare offering or who has multiple prescription needs is encouraged to attend. There is no charge for attending, however please contact the Trinity Church at 926-5688 to RSVP. For more information please contact Representative Nancy Stiles at 926-6467. Mrs. Bridle-Russell also mentioned that the Methodist Church will be serving a Thanksgiving dinner, free of charge. There are no reservations necessary.

Mr. Griffin confirmed that the Christmas tree lighting will be on December 2 at 7pm. The event will include caroling, refreshments, music and other holiday activities. On the following day (December 3) the Christmas Parade will be held. In addition to the festivities, there is a home Christmas decorating competition. Judging for the competition will be held on December 14 (snow date - December 15). Winners of the competition will be announced on December 19 at the Selectmen's meeting. Those interested in participating in the holiday activities may contact the Recreation Department at 926-3932.

Vice-Chairman Pratt extending Thanksgiving wishes from his family to all Hampton residents.

II. APPOINTMENTS

1 – JERRY DIGNAM – TRANSFER STATION HOURS

Jerry Dignam addressed the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Dignam brought to the attention of the Board that taxpayers and voters are very unhappy about the hours of operation at the transfer station. He said that many people like to blame the default budget for the decrease in the hours at the station. The problem is many voters who have supported the default budget do not understand the budgeting process. If the budget warrant article fails than by law the default budget is adopted. Mr. Dignam mentioned that from 2001 to 2005 the operating budget was increased by 36.4%.

Mr. Dignam also discussed a number of important services that the Town provides such as mosquito control and mailing out dog license notices. He pointed out that money allocated towards these services have been reduced as a result of the default budget. In addition the transfer station hours have been decreased from 56 in 2003 to 28 hours a week in 2005. The current transfer station hours make it difficult for people who work during the week to access the facility. Mr. Dignam questioned why the Town is able to find money to fund the projects such as the response time study for the fire station and a vacuum truck for Public Works. He recommended that the Town find enough money to keep the transfer station open during the entire weekend. Mr. Dignam also said that he consulted with a number of the Station employees and they told him that they were willing to work weekends. He said that it is time for the Town to consider the various options for labor and hours of operating the transfer station.

Mr. Dignam presented a petition to the Board of Selectmen. He stated that the petition had over 500 signatures of people who are in support of the transfer station establishing adequate operating hours to accommodate the citizens of Hampton. The petition suggested that the station stay open from Monday to Friday for eight hours a day. In addition, the petition recommends that the station remain open year around on weekends. The petition suggested that the station stays open on weekends for eight hours from April 16 to November 30 and six hours from December 1 to April 15.

BOS Questions to Jerry Dignam

Mr. Griffin asked if the signatures on the petition were all registered voters. Mr. Dignam said that they were all Hampton residents, taxpayers and business owners. Mr. Griffin agrees with the petition that Mr. Dignam presented. He said that it is an issue that a lot of citizens are very concerned about. Mr. Griffin would like to see the station open on Saturday and Sunday to accommodate the working people of Hampton.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell said that she opposed the reduced hours at the transfer station since the day it happened. She feels that it is vital that the station is open on the weekend for Hampton residents. She said that the decrease in hours was a result of the default budget; however she has witnessed many items that were financially supported that were not in the budget. Mrs. Bridle-Russell also said that the workers that she talked to at the Station are willing to work on weekends.

Mr. Griffin MOTIONED that the Hampton Transfer Station will be open for a total of ten hours on the weekend. This would involve the Station being open on Saturday and Sunday. **Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED.**

Discussion:

There is a need for the station to be open for part of the morning and afternoon. Chairman Workman noted that if money is spent in this area than it must come out of another.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

2 – RECOGNITION OF HAMPTON WALKERS – 200,000 MILES

Recreation Department Director Dyana Martin introduced Sylvia Lord the president of the Hampton Walkers Association and Judy Shanon the Vice-President. Over 15 years ago the Hampton Walkers Association was formed to encourage the health benefits of walking. Studies have shown that exercising with a group is more enjoyable and more effective. Recently the Group has accomplished a milestone for walking 200,000 miles which is the equivalent of walking around the world eight times.

Chairman Workman presented the walkers with a plaque to acknowledge their accomplishment. Ms. Lord and Ms. Shanon accepted the recognition on behalf of the Hampton Walkers Association and thanked the Board of Selectmen. The plaque will be hung in the Town Hall.

3 – WARREN BAMBURY & ROUTE 1 CORRIDOR ENGINEER

Warren Bambury, Cliff Sinnott Executive Director from the Rockingham Planning Commission, Project Engineer Marty Kennedy, of VHB Engineers, came before the Board of Selectmen to discuss the Route 1 study. The three year project is nearing completion. There have been three public hearings and an additional one will be held towards the end of the study.

Cliff Sinnott said that he and the Commission are interested in receiving feedback from the Board of Selectmen to determine if the proposed project is feasible. The center of Hampton has a problem in regards to traffic capacity issues and there is little space for expansion. One of the concepts being considered to solve the traffic congestion is to create a bypass parallel to the railroad right-of-way. Mr. Sinnott is not certain whether this preliminary project would have a negative or positive impact on businesses in the area. It would be a very expensive project and something that may be considered in ten years. The project is preliminary and requires a lot of input from Town Board members and residents. There is no plan to relocate Route 1 at this point.

Mr. Kennedy provided an aerial photograph of Hampton. He pointed out that Route 1 requires an effective roadway that is pedestrian friendly. He mentioned that he considered the current interchange and found it to be confusing for people who are not familiar with it. In addition he also found some safety inefficiencies. He suggested that a diamond type interchange may handle the traffic congestion in this area. The Consultant has been considering moving Route 1 to the west along the rail corridor. The road would have two lanes with the exception of accesses to the old Route 1 near the Watson's Lane area in the north and the Drakeside Road area in the south, where there would be five lanes for a portion of the roadway. At the High Street intersection there would be no direct access to the bypass and there would be an underpass in this area. In

the future they would like to keep the road as narrow as possible in the event the railroad is reestablished. Mr. Kennedy also suggested a parking garage to provide additional parking for the Town of Hampton. Once the interchange is built, it is possible sidewalks could be widened and additional parking could be built.

BOS Questions to Warren Bambury and Route 1 Corridor Engineer

Mr. Workman said that the ideal corridor would be designed to accommodate a roadway and a right of way for future rail needs. In addition he suggested that access to this rail line should be minimal.

Mr. Griffin said that he has always thought it would be a good idea to use the railroad area for a roadway. However, thinks that it may be difficult to convince people with businesses in that area to support the proposed roadway. He also said that the proposed parking garage is too far from the downtown area however, believes that it would provide additional parking which would be beneficial to Hampton.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell said that it sounds like a great plan as long as the project does not require funds from the Town of Hampton. She mentioned that this proposal could benefit Hampton businesses and deal with the chronic traffic problem.

Mr. Pratt said that he thinks it is a good idea however, would like to see more access routes to the downtown core. He also suggested that the businesses in the area should be consulted in regards to the project.

Chairman Workman said that he is not sure if the interchange would cure or destroy the business area. He suggested input from the public and local business owners. Mr. Workman encouraged the group to move forward and explore the options.

Mr. Bambury said that the proposed parking garage would have a shuttle to transport people to the beach and downtown area.

Mr. Bambury will keep the Board of Selectmen informed in regards to the project and to the next public hearing.

Mr. Sinnott discussed the happenings with the State bike path along Winnacunnet Road. He said that the Town had an application seeking federal funds to build the path, but voted not to fund the required local match. After consulting with the State and residents in the Town he has a suggestion that would not require local funds. Mr. Sinnott suggested that the Town use the federal funding to enhance the shoulders along Exeter Road for a bike path. The additional shoulder work would use about \$165,000 of the \$600,000 of federal funds that were approved for the Winnacunnet Road project. He also suggested that the Town may consider using federal funding when Winnacunnet Road is reconstructed, if the State is willing to hold the funds for the Town. If the Town would like to proceed in this way the Town needs to communicate to the Department of Transportation before January.

Mr. Barrington clarified that the money that Mr. Sinnott is referring to is the Highway Capital Improvement fund. He noted that there has not been specific appropriation of funds made by Hampton for the bike path. Mr. Barrington will investigate the possibility of the Highway Capital Improvement fund for the bike path project.

III. OLD BUSINESS

1. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Barrington reported that Fire Chief Hank Lipe has been reviewing alternatives for the fire facilities needs. By eliminating storage at the proposed beach substation, he believes that the space can be reduced further. Even with the increase of storage space at the uptown location, this could reduce the project budget to under \$4-million. A test pit at the Church Street location is planned to determine the suitability of the soils for building purposes. Mr. Barrington also mentioned that he e-mailed a copy of Article 20 of the 1977 Town Meeting to the Board earlier in the week. The Article authorized the conveyance of the property from the Town to the Precinct and does not include restrictions. Mr. Barrington consulted with the Police Department and discussed the possibility of using police station for Precinct Commission meetings.

Mr. Barrington met with Superintendent Gaylord. They will be meeting with Steve Pernaw on November 28 to discuss contractual arrangements on the traffic engineering study for the Winnacunnet Road / Park Avenue area.

Mr. Barrington met with Chris Williams, with the Department of Environmental Services (DES) had arranged a meeting Monday morning to discuss the possibility and logistics of moving some of the excess sand from the main beach area to Sun Valley to help alleviate both sand problems.

A copy of the fire department facilities needs assessment and feasibility study has been copied to the Selectmen's packets.

In response to Mr. Griffin's question last week about the presence of police cars at Winnacunnet High School (WHS) recently, there was a general sweep being made by the regional K-9 unit. They checked the parking lots and the student lockers.

Mr. Barrington noted that the Portsmouth Rotary Club is hosting a Thanksgiving dinner in at the Unitarian Church in Portsmouth along State Street on Thursday at noon. A meal may be delivered or a ride will be provided for people who are interested in enjoying a Thanksgiving meal. For more information please call the Portsmouth Rotary Club Turkey Hotline 431-4436.

Selectmen's Response to the Manager's Report

Mr. Pratt asked if any information was gathered in regards to the idea of registering dogs at the same time as vehicles. It seems like a good idea and it may reduce the problem in regards to mailing the dog license notices out. Mr. Barrington will research the idea. He also mentioned that it is illegal to send additional information such as dog license notices along with tax bills.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell inquired about sewer connections at the beach. Mr. Barrington said that residents in the area are responsible for coving the costs of the connection to the sewer line. Mrs. Bridle-Russell has reason to believe otherwise and asked Mr. Barrington to make sure that this is the proper process. Mr. Barrington said that the cost is dependent on a number of factors such as the complexity of the connection. People in the area will be required to hire a private plumber to have the connection installed.

Mr. Griffin requested an update in regards to candidates' night being held in the Selectmen's meeting room. Mr. Barrington is waiting for direction from the Board. Mr. Patton dropped off a letter today requesting a committee to study the situation. Attorney Gearreald is not available this week to provide legal counsel in regards to changing the policy. Mr. Barrington suggested that the Board invite Attorney Gearreald to attend the December 5 meeting to discuss changing the policy.

Mr. Griffin mentioned the letter from the Lane Library stating that they are interested in using the property at the location of the former court house. In addition the Heritage Committee has requested that the Board of Selectmen to preserve the court house. Mr. Pratt enquired if the power and water has been shut off in the court house. Mr. Barrington will enquire and make certain that all utilities are shut off.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Bridle-Russell stated that the Budget Committee will be meeting on December 6 to make their final decisions. She recommended that all Selectmen watch the outcome on Channel 22 that night. The Budget Committee will provide the Board of Selectmen a list of suggestions for the proposed budget.

V. MINUTES – NOVEMBER 14, 2005

Mr. Pratt MOTIONED to accept the minutes as presented **Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Mrs. Bridle-Russell said that the letter that was sent to the Zoning Board of Adjustment included a comment stating that the Board of Selectmen unanimous voted in opposition to the variance request was incorrect. Mr. Barrington noted that he had unfortunately failed to make that correction. In addition the Zoning Board of Adjustment would have liked to have had more information in the letter.

VI - CONSENT AGENDA

None

VII - PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pratt MOTIONED to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM. **Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Chairman